

Claim Amendments:

This following is a claim listing, including amendments to the claim that the Applicant would respectfully request the Examiner adopt as Examiner's amendments. If the Examiner agrees to withdraw the final Office Action, the following claim amendments are presented. The Applicant believes the amendments would place the application in condition for allowance.

1. (Currently Amended) A tensioner for surgical tape, said tensioner comprising:

a tensioner body, said tensioner body having

attaching means whereby said tensioner can be attached to a point on a length of surgical tape;

holding means whereby said tensioner can restrainably engage[[s]] a second point of said surgical tape; and

wherein the attaching means and holding means are collinear and located along the longitudinal axis of the tensioner body; and

wherein the attaching means receives surgical tape at a point along the longitudinal axis of the tensioner body.
2. (Original) The tensioner of claim 1, wherein said tensioner is formed of plastic.
3. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 1, wherein said attaching means comprises an elongated slot through the said tensioner body.
4. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 1, wherein said holding means comprises a circular opening through said tensioner body.
5. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 1, wherein said holding means comprises an elongated slot through the said tensioner body.

6. (Currently Amended) A tensioner for a surgical tape comprising a tensioner body having a first opening and a second opening passing therethrough,

wherein said first opening has a first section having size and shape such that a surgical tape of a given size can frictionally move through said first opening section and a second section having a size and shape to restrainably engage the surgical tape of a given size,

wherein said second opening has a size and shape to restrainably engage the surgical tape of a given size,

wherein the first opening and the second opening are collinear and located along the longitudinal axis of the body.

7. (Original) The tensioner of claim 6, wherein said tensioner is formed of plastic.
8. (Original) The tensioner of claim 6, wherein said first section of said first opening has a circular cross-section.
9. (Original) The tensioner of claim 6, wherein said second section of said first opening is an elongated slot.
10. (Original) The tensioner of claim 6, wherein said second opening is an elongated slot.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of clamping an elongated anatomical structure, such as a blood vessel, the method comprising the steps of:
- attaching a tensioner, having a body, to a length of surgical tape;
- passing a portion of said surgical tape around the elongated ~~body~~ anatomical structure;
- and
- securing said surgical tape in place by inserting a section of said surgical tape into a gripping portion of said tensioner.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said attaching step comprises securing a free end of said length of surgical tape in a slot in said tensioner.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said securing step comprises threading said length of surgical tape through an opening in said tensioner.